National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). The Government of West Bengal have suggested that there should be consultation with the States in order to correctly assess the position of scarcity which may prevail for some time. They have also requested for suspension of export of onion until the new crop is harvested.

Arrivals of new crop of onions have already begun in the market. As such, suspension of export of onions, even for a brief period, is not desirable because it would affect our stable markets which have been assiduously built up and would be against the long term interests of the farmers as well as our requirements of foreign exchange.

Proposal to Re-Establish Trade with Neighbouring Countries

1288. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the North-Eastern States suggesting to re-establish trade and communication links with the neighbouring countries and also to set up free trade Zone in the region;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to open trade and communication ties with the neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No proposal has been received for setting up free trade Zones in the North Eastern State. Suggestions have been received from North Eastern States of India for resuming border trade with Bangladesh.

(c) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARRC) have signed an agreement on preferential trading arrangements among the member States namely India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan to facilitiate and promote mutual trade and economic co-operation.

Streamlining of Procedures for Exports

1289. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to streamline all the procedures for exports so that exporters do not suffer from bureaucratic delay;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow exporters with good track record to import components under the Green Channel System;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) to what extent the instructions issued by Government are being implemented by the authorities concerned to solve problems of the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Streamlining of all the procedures and documentation relating to import and export activities is a continuous process which is done by Government suo moto or on representation from trade and industry as and when considered necessary. Such streamlining/simplification is notified in the form of a Public Notice for compliance by all concerned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The green channel for clearance of cargo at the examination stage of the goods has been introduced by the Government with respect to specified categories of importers like Government departments, public sector undertakings and private importers having an unblemished record for the import of selected commodities. Besides, a self-assessment scheme has also been introduced available to these categories of exporters whereby they themselves can assess the goods, determine the duty leviable and on that basis pay the same.

(e) The instructions issued by the Government from time to time are being implemented by all concerned authorities.